

Minutes for the Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting of March 16, 2016.

Board members present were: Ron Sender, Jack Johnson, Christopher Tonkin, Scott Smith, Stephan Miller and Phil Goff. Doug Greenfield was absent. Also present were Rod Holland, Officer Robert Smith, Emily Snyder and Joey Glushko.

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm.

*Approval of the minutes from February meeting. The February minutes were approved as amended.

COBWEB officer introduction and comments. Joey updated us on the progress made on the ped/bike Positive Citation Program. The Chamber of Commerce is currently looking for a sponsor for this program. The Chamber would like to see a single sponsor but the fact that Arlington has no large businesses complicates finding one. The Arlington Police and possibly members of ABAC will hand out the citations which will be redeemable for a small treat. The program, if implemented, will last from May through October.

The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) report. Scott told us that the Board of Selectmen (BoS) voted to move on to the next step (design) for the signal at the Lake St. crossing of the Bikeway. A committee will be formed including representatives from ABAC, TAC Walking in Arlington, and EALS.

Scott also reminded us about the ongoing discussion about the Green Line Extension. There have been a series of public meetings about cutting the cost of the project. He told us that ABAC should be most concerned that the Community Path Extension be included in the design.

MassDOT will sponsor a public information meeting next week about the upcoming Arlington Center Safe Travel Project. There has been some discussion of the placement of sharrows on Mass. Ave., west of Mystic St., in the 100% design. A citizen requested that the sharrows be moved to the centers of the lanes, because the ones near the parking lane may lead to cyclists being squeezed into the door zone. Scott told us that the current placement meets national standards. Phil asked if it is possible to change the plan at this point. Scott noted that from a cost standpoint, moving the sharrows is not a major change. Christopher asked if they should be moved to the middle of the lane to signal that bicyclists can take the lane if necessary for their safety. Phil would like to see consistency with the sharrows placed in the same position throughout the project—they are not consistent in the current design. Jack suggested that we come up with a recommendation about the location of these markings.

Phil asked if we were interested in commenting on where, within the redesign area, the sharrows should be placed. He feels that there are some places where additional sharrows are needed. The consensus was to request, for the sake of constancy, that the sharrows be placed in the center of the lanes` and to place an additional sharrow on the eastbound side of Mass. Ave. near Swan Pl.

*Phil will write a letter to the town with our recommendations. We voted to authorize the letter. The vote was unanimous.

Summary of Tri Community Bike Committee meeting held on February 20. The next meeting is scheduled for June 4 at 9-11 am. Scott told us that Jenifer Melot is working on an inventory of bicycle accommodations in the three towns. Joey mentioned the the photo library which will be on the Minuteman Bikeway web site. All submissions to the photo library should be submitted to Stephan Miller via webmaster@minutemanbikeway.org. Lexington is working on Bikeway signage in conjunction with a consultant.

Review of the Winter Social held on March 1. Christopher summarized the event for us. There was some criticism of the format and the length of the presentation but overall, it was a success. Rod mentioned that he would have liked to hear from the MAPC. Phil suggested that we use this format every other year to get updates from the surrounding communities and, on the intervening years, return to having interesting guest speakers. He would also like to see a more detailed report from ABAC in future years.

Working group for League of American Bicyclists (LAB) application. A status report. Christopher informed us that the LAB website is being redesigned so the application can not yet be filled out. Joey suggested working up a Word document in the interim. At this point Phil asked if it would be possible for the Police Dept to assign a pool of up to two officers who would be the Committee's liaison for continuity at future meetings. Joey will look into it. Rod said he thinks that we should make more of an effort to engage the police officer during meetings.

BIKEArlington Tour to be held on May 15. Joey has arranged for the Tour to stop at the renovated central fire station in Arlington Center. We discussed possible routes from the starting point at the Jefferson-Cutter house and the fire station. There will possibly be a reception at the end of the ride in the basement of the Regent Theater. Joey suggested that we stop at the Hardy school or the Lake Street parking area and talk about the possible signal at the Bikeway/Lake St. intersection. Scott offered to draft a cue sheet. We are targeting April 10 (rain date April 17) for a test ride.

Bikeway and Mystic Valley Parkway user counts. Joey told us that she would like to see Bikeway user counts in all three towns taken on the same day. The spring counts will be taken on May 17 and 21. She would also like to take counts to determine bicycle usage of the Mystic Valley Parkway.

Town of Arlington Bike Plan. We asked whether 1) should we go about writing a plan and 2) should we write the plan ourselves or hire a consultant to do it? Joey would like to start working on the plan after the LAB application is complete so that the information in the application can be utilized. The Planning Dept would like to see a combined pedestrian, bicycle and public transportation plan. There is some money available to facilitate creating such a plan. Phil gave us some idea of what having a consultant work on the plan would cost.

Plans for Town Day. Town Day is on September 17 this year. We will be giving out children's bicycle helmets and possibly adult reflective vests this year. Joey suggested having maps and suggestions on how to get to nearby places via bicycle. Stephan suggested that we hand out maps for various commutes such as Arlington Center to Harvard Sq., Kendal Sq., the Medical Area., and other places people work.

*The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 pm.

*Notes that a vote of the board was taken.
Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller